

The following is a family-placed obituary for Volma Overton, Austin civil rights leader. The obituary was published in the Austin-American Statesman.

Volma Robert Overton passed away on Monday, October 31, 2005. He was 81 years old. He was the fourth child born to Nicholas and Eliza Overton in rural Travis County, TX September 26, 1924. He attended school in the Maha Community, TX then attended L. C. Anderson High School in Austin and graduated in 1942. He worked for six months after graduation, then was drafted into the military as a U. S. Marine. He served 2 years in the Pacific Theater. After being discharged from the U.S. Marines, Volma joined the U.S. Army Reserves. He served twenty eight years in the Army and was discharged with honors in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Upon returning home from the Marine Corps, Volma met Warneta Hill at Huston-Tillotson College in February 1946. They were married in April 1946. To this union four children were born Florence, Volma Jr., Sharlet and DeDra. Volma attended Huston-Tillotson from 1947 to 1950, graduating with a B. S. Degree in Chemistry. He began his career with the Post Office in 1952 and in 1979 was appointed Postmaster at Cedar Creek, Texas, where he served until retirement in 1985. He served as president of the Austin NAACP from 1963-1983, during which time he participated in the March on Washington in 1963 and the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. He received the Arthur B. DeWitty award in 1967 and many other awards for his service. He was also honored for his contribution to Civil Rights by the LBJ School of Public Affairs on March 25, 2004. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Austin. He joined in 1963 and served as a deacon since 1967. He was also a Christian Lay Leader, deeply committed to supporting missions and to insuring the church's involvement in the social ministries of the entire Austin community. He leaves to cherish precious memories; his loving wife of 59 years, Warneta; Four children: Florence Black (Kenneth), Volma Overton Jr. (Shirley), Sharlet Hoium (David), and DeDra Overton; Five Siblings: Edmonson Overton (Marilyn), Nicholas Overton (Robbie), Lydia Minerva Ross (Thomas), Roscoe Overton (Johnnie Mae), Euela Lane; Seven Grandchildren: Ericka Holmes (Wendell), Kimberly Overton, Kenneth Black Jr., Volma Overton III, Adrienne Overton, Charles Black, Sarah Overton; Four Great Grandchildren: Cydnee Black, Zoe Holmes, Ailah Overton, Noah Holmes; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. A wake will be held at King-Tears Mortuary located at 1300 12th Street on Friday, November 4, 2005, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., at First Baptist Church of Austin located at 901 Trinity. Interment at Texas State Cemetery, 909 Navasota, Austin, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions for scholarships may be made to the Urissa Violette Hickey Christian Legacy Foundation in care of Greater Texas Federal Credit Union, 6411 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas, 78752. Arrangements entrusted to King Tears Mortuary, Inc. 512-476-9128.